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**FAFSA on the Web**  
**Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid**  
**U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance**

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## Privacy & Security

Thank you for visiting our Web site. Our privacy policy is simple: We collect no personal information about you unless you choose to provide that information to us.

Some of our web pages let you voluntarily submit personal information (such as e-mail or our online aid application, FAFSA on the Web). Below you will find information explaining how your information will be safeguarded.

### Non-personal information we record

If you do nothing during your visit but browse through the Web site, read pages, or download information, our Web site's operating system will automatically record some general information about your visit.

During your visit, our Web operating system will record:

1. The **Internet domain** for your Internet service, such as "xcompany.com" or "xcompany.net" if you use a private Internet access account, or "yourschool.edu" if you connect from a college or university domain.
2. The **type of browser** (such as "Netscape version X" or "Internet Explorer version X") that you are using.
3. The **type of operating system** that you use (such as Macintosh, Unix, or Windows).
4. The **date and time** you visit our site, and the Web pages that you visit on our site.
5. The **address of the previous Web site** you were visiting, if you linked to us from another Web site.

We use this information for statistical analysis, to help us make our site more useful to visitors. This tracking system does not record information about individuals.

### Security and Intrusion Detection

For security purposes and to make sure this service remains available to all users, we use special software programs for monitoring network traffic to identify unauthorized attempts to upload or change information, or otherwise to cause damage to this government computer system. These programs collect no personally identifiable information, but they do collect information that could help us identify someone attempting to tamper with this Web site.

Except for authorized law enforcement investigations, we make no other attempts to identify individual users or their usage habits. We only use raw monitoring data logs for determining trends in usage patterns and in diagnosing system problems.

### Information from e-mail you send to us

If you decide to send us an electronic mail message (e-mail, which includes information you send to Customer Service regarding a problem or feedback you provide on a Customer Survey), the message will usually contain your return e-mail address. If you include personally-identifying information in your e-mail because you want us to address issues specific to your situation, we may use that information in contacting other federal agencies or our partners (such as

colleges, lenders, or state agencies) in connection with your student aid application or aid awards. In other limited circumstances, including requests from Congress or other parties, we may be required by law to disclose information that you submit.

Also, e-mail is not necessarily secure against interception. If your communication is very sensitive, or includes personal information such as data from your tax return or student loan account, you may prefer to send it by postal mail to:

Office of Student Financial Assistance  
P.O. Box 84  
Washington, DC 20044 -0084

#### **Information collected if you complete a form on our Web sites**

On this Web site, we offer interactive forms that allow you apply for financial aid. When you apply for federal student aid using one of these forms, the Office of Student Financial Assistance is authorized to maintain a record of the transactions related to your application.

Under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended we are allowed to ask for the information on this form so that we can determine whether you are eligible for aid, and if so, how much. We will share the information with other agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, to verify the information you put on the application. If you do not give us all of the information we need to process your FAFSA, your aid may be delayed or denied.

#### **State Certification**

When you submit this application, you are automatically giving your state financial aid agency permission to verify information on this form and to obtain income tax information for all people who are required to report income on this form.

#### **Your rights under the Paperwork Reduction Act**

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, you are not required to complete a government form unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for the FAFSA and Renewal application is 1845-0001; the correction form is 1845-0008. It should take you thirty to forty minutes to complete the FAFSA application, twenty to twenty-five minutes for the Renewal application, and twenty-one minutes for the correction form, including reading instructions, gathering information, filling out the application, and reviewing it. If you have any comments regarding the accuracy of this time estimate or suggestions for improving this application, please write to:

U.S. Department of Education  
Washington, DC 20202 -4651

#### **More about privacy and your student aid records**

When you apply for Federal student aid, the Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs is authorized to maintain a record of the transactions related to your application.

[Select this link to review the System of Records notices](#), which list the authorized disclosures and the safeguards for Office of Student Financial Assistance Program systems under the [Privacy Act of 1974, as amended](#).

If you have authorized us to share your financial aid information with state agencies or the colleges that you are thinking of attending, they will also store that information (often in electronic form). State agencies and colleges also collect other information relating to financial aid payments, admission, enrollment, etc. The privacy of these records is protected by the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#).

[Privacy & Security](#)

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